

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Situation Report

Severe Storms

July 27, 2006 Afternoon Summary

UPDATED INFORMATION IS IN BOLD

SUMMARY

Authorities continue to respond to a wide variety of problems in the wake of two storms that struck the St Louis metro area last week. On Wednesday, intense heat returned to the area, with the weather service reporting an afternoon high of 98, and heat indices well above 100.

Officials in St Louis City reported three additional heat-related deaths on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday, a volunteer was killed when he fell out of a tree while trimming branches in University City in St Louis County. Ameren officials report that as of 3pm, about 37,500 customers in Missouri are without power, with 35,000 in St Louis County, 2,000 in St Louis City, and 25 in Washington County. 4000 personnel are involved in restoration efforts.

A Federal disaster declaration was received on July 21, 2006, (FEMA-3267-EM), for City of St. Louis, and the counties of St. Louis, Dent, Iron, Jefferson, St. Charles, and Washington. FEMA is authorized to provide debris removal and emergency protective measures, (Categories A and B), under the Public Assistance program, at 75 percent Federal funding. On Tuesday, SEMA conducted Public Assistance Applicant Briefings (for Governmental entities) for St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Additional briefings will be scheduled for other affected areas in the coming days.

The Dept. of Social Services has clarified information regarding replacement of food for households who are currently on the food stamp program. Citizens that are currently receiving food stamps, who lost food purchased with the food stamps, are eligible for a replacement equal to the amount that they lost. Clients need to complete a one-page form at a Family Services office, and benefits will be replaced on the person's electronic benefit card as soon as possible. Contrary to some incorrect reports, the food stamp program does NOT issue "vouchers" for food.

Joint FEMA-SEMA Preliminary Damage Assessments for Public Assistance (PA) were completed on Thursday in Iron and Washington Counties, and continue in St Charles, St Francois, St Louis Counties as well as St Louis City. Public Assistance programs provide assistance to state and local governments, and qualifying private, non-profit agencies to offset emergency related costs. Preliminary Damage Assessments for Individual Assistance (IA) began today in St Louis and Washington Counties, as well as St Louis City. IA programs provide assistance for individuals and business-owners that suffered losses because of the disaster.

Fatalities

Location	Fatalities	Notes
Jefferson County	1	Heat-related; reported by DHSS
St Louis County	5	1 volunteer fell out of tree trimming branches 1 Ameren worker electrocuted; 1 construction worker killed by wind-driven debris, 2 heat-related deaths
St Louis City	4	Heat-related; reported by City & DHSS
STATE TOTAL	10	

City of St. Louis

City is scaling back staffing in their Emergency Operations Center. One shelter was open overnight, with a population of 19 people. However, the city has closed that shelter today. 16 cooling stations are operational today. Health officials continue to monitor illnesses that could be linked to eating spoiled food. City crews have removed an estimated 70,000 tons of debris through Monday.

St. Louis County

County reports an apartment fire overnight that was likely caused by burning candles. 4 children and 2 adults suffered minor injuries. Traffic signals at 4 intersections are not working because of power outage. The county has discontinued its shelter operations, although officials are maintaining capabilities to open up facilities should the need arise as it gets warmer throughout the week. **28 cooling stations** are operational today. **9 dumpsters have been set up around the county to collect spoiled food. 3 sites are being set up for residents to drop off debris.**

Washington County

The County is completing its health and welfare checks for residents in rural areas southwest of Potosi. 100 Soldiers from the Missouri National Guard are assisting with water distribution operations, and health & welfare checks. Americorp has a team in place to assist with recovery efforts and debris removal projects. **County intends to deactivate emergency operations center at close of business today. They are also setting up an information hotline for residents to call with recovery questions.**

State Actions

Governor Blunt announced on Thursday that his request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to waive their 10-day rule to file for replacement Food Stamps has been approved. Food stamp recipients now have until August 18 to request help. The Governor also issued a public service announcement warning citizens of carbon monoxide poisoning due to running generators without proper ventilation.

State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) continues to operate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at a Level-1 activation. Hours of operation have been reduced to 7am-6pm on Thursday. SEMA will return to normal operations on Friday, and through the weekend, although personnel staffing a Joint Field Office (JFO) will be working this weekend. SEMA has also dispatched personnel to serve as representatives on Joint SEMA-FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment teams.

Missouri National Guard (MONG) has over 450 personnel on duty performing various missions. Most personnel are working in the metro area delivering food and water, and performing debris removal activities. About 100 people are conducting health & welfare checks and assisting with water delivery in Washington County. The Guard also has four medical personnel providing support to the shelter in St Louis.

Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) is augmenting law enforcement efforts in Washington County. On Wednesday, the patrol flew an assessment team over Washington County to determine locations of citizens who may still need help.

Office of Administration (OA) has been in contact with vendors for additional MREs that can be purchased and delivered to the affected area. OA has also been coordinating delivery of food, water, ice, and generators since the storm moved through the area last week.

Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) has distributed a press release on food safety. DHSS reports more than 100 nurses and nursing assistants have responded to the public service announcement aired over the weekend. DHSS is working with Ameren to restore power to elderly care facilities that were identified on Monday. **Only 1 nursing home remains without power.**

Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is reviewing a request from St Louis County to provide debris removal assistance in the affected area. Otherwise, state highways in the metro area are near normal. MoDOT has also been reviewing requests for overdimension shipments (i.e. overweight/oversize) on an expedited basis.

Missouri Department of Insurance (MDI) is providing a consumer information hotline for people to call with questions on their insurance policies. The number is 800-726-7390 and is staffed from 8am-5pm on weekdays.

Department of Labor& Industrial Relations (DOLIR), Division of Employment Security is providing a 30-day extension for 2nd quarter contribution and wage reports. Companies who lost power in St Louis, Dent, Iron, Jefferson, St. Charles, or Washington Counties or in the City of St. Louis will not be assessed penalties if the report and request for extension is received by August 31. Contact DOLIR at 573-751-3441 for more information.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) has a toll-free number (1-800-364-9687) for shelters and agencies to provide to anyone who may need assistance.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working with local officials on providing guidance for disposal of spoiled food items. DNR has received notice that water samples provided by the City of Potosi have tested negative for bacteria. DNR has issued a debris waste waiver for yard waste.

Department of Social Services (DSS) reported lighter traffic at their Family Services offices in the St Louis area on Thursday. DSS replaced food stamps for more than 7,000 households on Wednesday, compared with 6,300 households on Tuesday, and nearly 3,000 households on Monday. DSS has also coordinated deliveries of water to St Louis City and deliveries of water and MREs to Washington County. DSS continues to work on mass care requests for affected jurisdictions.

Federal Actions

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is operating with an advance team out of the SEOC. **A Joint Field Office (JFO) is opening today in St Louis County, and should be fully operational by this weekend.**

Other State Agency and Volunteer Agency Actions

The Salvation Army (TSA) is operating a feeding center capable of producing 35,000 hot meals per day. Those meals are being distributed to sites throughout the metro area. American Red Cross (ARC), Southern Baptist, and numerous volunteer agencies continue to work with affected households across the area. Americorps teams are becoming operational to help with volunteer support coordination, and assist special needs populations with debris removal and other activities.

Weather

The Storm Prediction Center says a slight risk of severe weather exists tonight for extreme northeast Missouri, well outside the St Louis metro area. The National Weather Service has issued an extreme heat watch for the St Louis area in effective from Saturday morning through Wednesday. Friday's forecast includes a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, with a high of 90, with heat indices reaching 100. The high on Saturday should reach 95, and the high on Sunday is expected to reach 99.

Point of Contact:

SEMA Duty Officer after hours (Starting at 4:30 pm) number is 573-751-2748. During normal duty hours calls should be made to 573-526-9100.

This Situation Report and other storm-related information may be viewed at the following web address:

<http://sema.dps.mo.gov/Situation%20Reports.htm>